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Items 74 and 82 of the preliminary list*

General and complete disarmament

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Letter dated 19 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued on 18 May 2000 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation concerning the ratification by the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly under items 74 and 82 of the preliminary list.

(*Signed*) S. **Lavrov**

* A/55/50.

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Annex to the letter dated 19 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Statement issued on 18 May 2000 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

On 17 May 2000, the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation approved the Federal Act on ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. This completed the process of ratification of this most important document by the legislative branch of the Russian Federation.

The support of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation for the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is further evidence of our country's principled policy in favour of the strengthening of international security, non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and disarmament.

The responses from all over the world to the steps we have taken demonstrate that the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty by the Russian Federation as a nuclear Power is viewed as a clear signal of the new Russian leadership's support for the strengthening of strategic stability and confidence-building among peoples. Having ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Russian Federation has once again convincingly demonstrated that it is true to its word and is committed to implementing its obligations in the field of arms reduction and disarmament.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation confirms the need to preserve and prevent the breakdown of previously concluded arms limitation agreements, which form the basis for strategic stability in the world. In this connection, we are confident that the speedy entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which constitutes an effective barrier to the qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and attempts to proliferate them, is in the interests of all mankind. The Treaty's potential can be effectively realized only if it is ratified by all nuclear-weapon States and by other countries, whose ratification is essential for its entry into force in accordance with the provisions of article XIV of the Treaty. We therefore call upon those countries that have not yet signed or ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty to do so as soon as possible in the interest of the practical achievement of the objectives of the Treaty and in the interest of ensuring security and peace.